

Humphrey Feels Soviets Would Talk

By Jack Anderson

Hubert Humphrey, the defeated Democratic presidential candidate, has appealed to President Nixon to cancel the testing of multiple warheads.

In a report to the President on his recent Moscow visit, Humphrey warned that the Soviets were rushing their work on multiple warheads because of the announced U.S. goal to deploy the scatter missiles by next May.

He urged the President to take the initiative in halting the arms escalation. He contended that we are far enough ahead of Russia in the development of missiles to be able to stop the multiple-warhead tests at no risk to the national security.

Humphrey came away from Moscow with the impression that Kremlin leaders are divided as to whether they should discuss missile limitations with the United States. If the President would take the initiative, Humphrey predicted, the Kremlin would respond favorably.

The former Vice President also reported that he received the red-carpet treatment in Moscow. He spoke to all the top Soviet leaders, who received him warmly.

He even got a rise out of Premier Alexei Kosygin, who is known to foreign diplomats as one of the most humorless men in the Kremlin. Unlike his genial predecessor, Nikita

Khrushchev, Kosygin indulges in no wisecracks or quotes from old Russian proverbs. He is direct, almost dull, in his approach.

Humphrey wound up his discussion with Kosygin by thanking him mischievously for the excellent bargain the Russians gave us when they sold Alaska to the United States for only \$7.2 million in 1867.

Without changing his deadpan, matter-of-fact expression, Kosygin replied: "I have been looking into our treaty over the Alaskan territory, and we find it has a reversionary clause in it. It was only a 99-year lease."

Then he added with just a trace of a twinkle: "I have got the treaty locked in my vault. I am going to put it on U Thant's desk."

But Kosygin quickly reconsidered his threat to bring the Alaskan treaty before the United Nations.

"No," he said, smiling. "U Thant has enough troubles."

Note: Back in 1867, the government economizers were outraged over paying Russia the extravagant price of \$7.2 million for an expanse of mountains and glaciers inhabited by Eskimos. Indeed, the price was purposely inflated in order to compensate the Russian government for sending two fleets, one to New York and the other to San Francisco, in 1864 to discourage the British fleet from

breaking up the Northern blockade of the Confederate States.

Russian officers were wined and dined—the toast of New York and San Francisco—during this crucial period when the Civil War could have gone either way.

Brezhnev to Nasser

The Central Intelligence Agency has learned that Kremlin czar Leonid Brezhnev wrote Egypt's President Nasser a personal letter, dated July 21, pledging that Russia would not consider a Middle East settlement unacceptable to the Arabs.

The letter was written four days after the State Department's bouncy, bustling Assistant Secretary Joseph Sisco left Moscow where he tried to negotiate a Middle East agreement with Soviet leaders.

"Jumping Joe," as he's known irreverently inside the State Department, came back buoyed by his friendly reception in Moscow and cautiously optimistic about reaching a settlement.

Brezhnev's secret letter to Nasser might now dampen Sisco's optimism.

Reagan Mooches Tickets

Shortly before his dinner for the astronauts, President Nixon telephoned Robert Finch, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, in anguish. The President said he was being pestered by Califor-

nia's Gov. Ronald Reagan for extra tickets for the dinner.

The President, presumably recalling that Finch had been Reagan's lieutenant governor before joining the Cabinet, pleaded with him: "Get Reagan off my back."

Nixon Court

The selection of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth Jr., to fill former Justice Abe Fortas' seat on the Supreme Court is part of President Nixon's grand design to revamp the high court.

He believes the Earl Warren court fostered a premissiveness that encouraged agitators, anarchists and criminals to defy the established society. This brought political repercussions, according to the President's thesis, against the Democrats, who weren't really responsible for the court's decisions.

To avoid the same political pitfall, Nixon wants to establish as his first priority a law-and-order Supreme Court. He has relied chiefly upon Attorney General John Mitchell to help him fill the Supreme Court vacancies. They have sought experienced jurists whose decisions on civil rights won't offend the liberal North, but who can be expected to uphold law and order firmly.

Haynsworth, like Chief Justice Warren Burger, had the right qualifications.

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